

**SB 1259 (DeSaulnier)
As Amended – March 23, 2010**

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION
Fact Sheet**

SUMMARY

SB 1259 creates the Economic Development and Job Creation Agency and provides a single portal for economic development and job creation in California. This bill reorganizes the multiple and dispersed economic development programs in the state to attract business and create good, high-quality jobs and grow the economy.

BACKGROUND

California is facing a jobs crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Great Depression. California has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country at 12.3% and in 2009 over 2 million Californians were looking for work.

Not only is unemployment at an all-time high in California, but people are staying unemployed longer as the economy continues to falter. Thirty-four percent of unemployed Californians have been looking for work for over 6 months and that number has increased by **170.4%** since 2008.

California lost 952,800 jobs over the last two years (July 2007 to July 2009) and the state is projected to lose over a million jobs by 2013. The construction industry has been particularly hard hit, with employment down by 29% since 2007.

The jobs crisis in California requires concerted and strategic efforts to bring business to the state, spur the economy and create jobs. Businesses that are struggling to retain jobs, want to expand or are considering relocating to California could all benefit from the resources that the state has to offer.

However, since the dismantling of the State Trade, Technology and Commerce Agency in 2003, the state has lacked a single point of entry for employers to access state services and benefits that can save and create jobs.

Currently, there are nearly 100 agencies, departments, commissions, and task forces scattered throughout state government geared toward job creation. This dispersal of resources leads to inefficiencies, confusion, and lack of accountability.

THIS BILL

SB 1259 creates the Economic Development and Job Creation Agency. The office will be tasked with evaluating all existing economic development and job creation programs, departments, state funding and developing a re-organization plan. The plan will prioritize the creation of good jobs for Californians.

STATUS

April 26th – Senate Appropriations Committee –
Suspense File

SUPPORT

- California Labor Federation (sponsor)
- California Manufactures and Technology Association
- American Federation of State, County and municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- Association of Financial Development Corporations
- California Aerospace Technology Association
- California Business Properties Association
- California Chapter of the American Fence Association
- California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
- California Fence Contractors' Association
- California Forestry Association
- California Grocers Association
- California League of Food Processors
- California Restaurant Association
- California Retailers Association

- California State Pipe Trades Council
- California Taxpayers' Association
- California Trucking Association
- Engineering Contractors' Association
- Flasher/Barricade Association
- Independent Waste Oil Collectors
- Marin Builders' Association
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- State Association of Electrical Workers
- Western State Council of Sheet Metal Workers

OPPOSITION

None Received.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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